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TIMOR HOJE

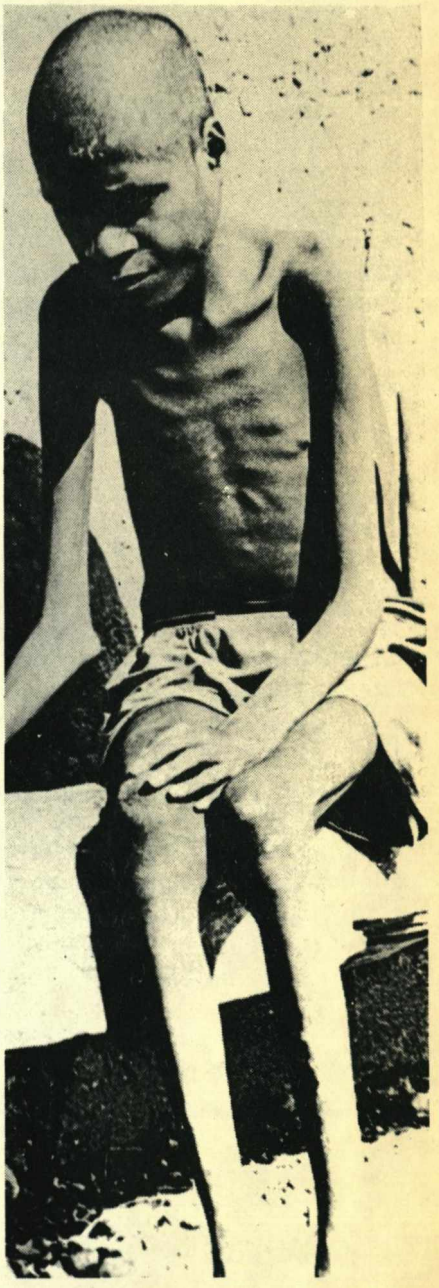
TIMOR TODAY

VIGIA POR TIMOR-LESTE

SABADO, DIA 22 DE DEZEMBRO, 10am horas,
MARTIN PLACE

CHRISTMAS EAST TIMOR VIGIL

SATURDAY DECEMBER 22, from 10am
MARTIN PLACE (near Xmas tree)



to our Australian friends

We are East Timorese who are holding a vigil here in Martin Place three days before Christmas, to protest against the crimes and genocide that the Indonesian Government is carrying out in our country.

We are also calling on the Australian and Indonesian Governments to allow our families to be reunited with us, here in Australia.

We have received many letters from our families still living in East Timor. As well, some Timorese friends who have managed to escape from East Timor, often by bribing Indonesian officials, have told us what is happening. We have also read Australian newspapers and know what the journalists and International Red Cross people have said.

Over 100,000 of our people have been killed. Whole villages have been destroyed . Indonesian planes bomb our crops. Timorese are rounded up from their mountain homes ,and put in concentration camps, where they cannot grow food. If Indonesian troops remain in our country, many more thousands of our people will die.

This has been going on for four years. On December 7,1975, Indonesian troops invaded our country and since then our people have been fighting for independence and freedom. The Suharto Government could not defeat us militarily, so Suharto decided to try to starve us into surrendering. That is why so many of our brothers and sisters, our families, have died in East Timor.

We know that the Australian people support us. In World War II, 40,000 East Timorese died fighting the Japanese invaders ,alongside Australian commandos in East Timor. Now the Australian Government supports the Indonesian invaders of our country, and does very little to help our families come to Australia.

The Australian Government insists that East Timorese who want to join their families in Australia, must be treated exactly the same way as people coming from Europe or other countries. Yet Vietnamese refugees are allowed into Australia without any difficulties. If there were boats in East Timor, and Suharto did not impose a naval blockade, our families would come like the Vietnamese refugees.

Our families in East Timor are refugees in their own country.

Even when our families get permission to come to Australia, many of them are stopped from leaving by the Indonesian invaders. Others must pay thousands of dollars in bribes.

Last April, many of our families registered with the International Red Cross to join us in Australia. Now all these people have been sacked from their jobs, since August 1. They have no food. Many of us are sending money to them each month so that they can stay alive. Some of them have been put in prison ,and others killed, because they wanted to join their families in Australia.

Our homeland is suffering as no country has ever suffered. And all because we wanted to be free and independent and not become part of Suharto's empire.

We ask you to help. Support our call for:

* Indonesian troops to leave our country immediately, to stop the genocide, and destruction of food crops ;

* Our families in East Timor to be reunited with us in Australia ;

* More International Red Cross and Australian aid agency people to go into East Timor, to make sure food aid reaches the starving and that the sick get medical treatment. We know that the Indonesian Red Cross is very corrupt and only a little bit of aid sent for the Timorese ,reaches the people.

PLEASE SEND DONATIONS TO THE EAST TIMOR AID APPEAL, GPO Box 9900, Sydney NSW 2001.

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authorised by East Timorese November 28 Committee,c/-PO Box 65,Enmore NSW 2042